

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Central California Resource Advisory Council

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1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Central California Resource Advisory Council

3b. GSA Committee No.

2052

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

03/05/2018

6. Expected Renewal Date

03/05/2020

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Sec. 309

13. Effective Date

10/21/1976

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open Meetings and Dates 0 17b. Closed Meetings and Dates 0 17c. Partially Closed Meetings and Dates 0 17d. Total Meetings and Dates 0

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$18,000.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$9,000.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$4,000.00

18d. Total	\$0.00	\$31,000.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.20

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

Since the inception of the Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Councils in 1995, Central California has had an outstanding core of members who have led the Council to some significant accomplishments. This RAC developed a mission statement for itself that has guided its work. This RAC was in the forefront of writing the Grazing Standards and Guidelines, and that established an early pattern of collaboration. This was especially helpful when the Council developed and approved Range Improvement Funds priorities. The BLM staff says that the guidelines have proven very helpful, even today. When the Pilot Fee Program was announced, the Central California RAC developed an exhaustive set of guidelines for BLM managers to consider before imposing or increasing fees. The five page document proved so helpful that other California RACs incorporated portions of it into their own recommendations, and the BLM's Washington Office recreation staff borrowed language from the document for their own general guidelines. Another major accomplishment is the culmination of a 4 year effort to establish Recreation Standards & Guidelines for Central California. The document has been widely distributed throughout BLM and has been well-received. Since that time, the RAC has passed a number of recommendations. These include preserving the military history of Fort Ord and including the Alabama Hills as an NLCS unit. The RAC has subgroups for the Alabama Hills Recreation Area managed by the BLM's Bishop Field Office, and travel management in the Temblors Range managed by the Bakersfield Field Office. Other subgroups expected to be formed once the group can reconvene include Community Forestry and the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Central California Resource Advisory Council is composed of 12 members (once the proposed appointments are approved) distributed in a balanced fashion into three groups. Category I includes those holding Federal grazing permits or leases, interests associated with transportation or rights-of-way, developed outdoor recreation, OHV users, or commercial recreation activities, commercial timber industry, or energy and mineral development. Category II includes nationally or regionally recognized environmental organizations, dispersed recreation activities, archaeological and historical interests, or nationally or regionally recognized wild horse and burro interest groups. Category III includes state, county, or locally elected office-holders, employee of a State agency responsible for the management of natural resources, Indian Tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the RAC is organized, are employed as academicians in natural resource management or the natural sciences, or represent the public-at-large.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The RAC, which usually meets 2 times a year, did not meet in FY18.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Council is necessary for the continuing task of implementing the Standards and Guidelines for Rangelands. The RAC also is needed to advise the agency on a variety of developing issues such as management of properties being acquired by the BLM and abandoned mine lands. Other federal agencies also utilize the Central California RAC to review fee increases and other issues, which require RAC concurrence. The RAC is also an important tool for outreach to various constituencies.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

All meetings are open to the public. Notices of the meetings are published in the Federal Register, posted on the BLM California website, and distributed to local newspapers.

21. Remarks

The RAC did not meet and did not provide recommendations in FY18.

Designated Federal Officer

Este Stifel BLM's Central California District Manager

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Collom, Laurie	05/17/2016	05/17/2019	public at large	Representative Member
Froke, Jeffrey	05/17/2016	05/17/2019	public at large	Representative Member
Gorden, Mary	10/13/2005	10/26/2018	archaeology	Representative Member
Knox, Blair	12/22/2011	10/26/2018	energy/minerals	Representative Member
Mitchell, Roger	10/28/2015	10/28/2018	Public at Large	Representative Member
Monaco, Reb	05/17/2016	05/17/2019	Dispersed Recreation	Representative Member
Schneider, Robert	05/17/2016	05/17/2019	Environmental	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 7

Narrative Description

The BLM's Central California RAC provides representative citizen council and advice to the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management's California State Director concerning the planning and management of public land resources located within the jurisdictional boundaries of the five field offices in the Central California region: Bakersfield, Bishop, Mother Lode, Central Coast and Ukiah.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

Typically, the RAC holds two in-person meetings each year: however, no meetings were held in FY2018. When it next reconvenes, the RAC will continue discussion on a number of high priority issues, including fire rehab and fuels management, management of new monuments and land acquisitions, and oil and gas. The U.S. Forest Service is also waiting for the CenCal RAC to meet in order for it to review it's changes to policy. The RAC also will be involved in planning for the Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument and other National Monument/Conservation Lands areas expansions/dedications if they occur.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

An in-depth analysis has not been done to determine cost savings associated with the Central California RAC. However, the contributions of the RAC are of great benefit to the BLM.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

Number of Recommendations Comments

The RAC had one recommendation in FY 2016. Total Recommendations to date: #1 Management of the Yuba Goldfields. #2 BLM Sustaining Working Landscapes Program. #3 To establish a Clear Creek Management Area Technical Review Team. Recommendation. #4 Resolution concerning eligibility of South Fork American River for wild and scenic river designation. Recommendation. #5 Implement recreation fees at the Clear Creek Management Area. Recommendation. #6 Preserve military history when planning at Fort Ord. Recommendation. #7 Support community-based planning at the Alabama Hills. Recommendation. #8 Work with local residents and other stakeholders to develop a community-based stewardship strategy for Chalfant. Recommendation. #9 Establish an OHV subgroup to develop evaluation criteria for potential OHV areas or modifying existing areas. #10 Designate the Alabama Hills a National Scenic Area as proposed by stakeholders. #11 Recommend BLM use OHV evaluation criteria. #12 Establish grazing standards and guidelines. #13 OHV Subgroup should work with the Hollister Field Office to identify OHV opportunities in Clear Creek Management Area outside the Serpentine Area of Critical Environmental Concern. #14 OHV Subgroup should work with the Mother Lode Field Office to identify potential areas – focusing on areas of 50-200 acres - for OHV use. #15 consider funding and capacity issues in the potential transfer of Lake Berryessa from USBR to BLM. #16 Designate the Alabama Hills as an NSA. #17 Allow the proposed Bishop campground fees to go to the next step.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The BLM fully implemented the following Central California RAC recommendations: The Sierra Resource Management Plan lists South Fork American River as eligible and suitable for wild and scenic river designation. The BLM implemented recreation fees at the Clear Creek Management Area. The BLM will consider military history in developing the plan for Fort Ord National Monument. There is an active community-based group for the Alabama Hills. There is an active community-based group for Chalfant. The BLM has grazing standards and guidelines. The Bishop campground fees will proceed to the final stages.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

The BLM has partially implemented the following Central California RAC recommendations: The BLM considered the Clear Creek Management Area Technical Review Team, but it was never finalized. The BLM adopted screening criteria for OHV areas. The BLM has not had an opportunity to use the criteria when modifying or expanding OHV areas. The Hollister and Mother Lode field offices have discussed potential areas with RAC members.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Feedback is given to the RAC through meeting minutes, web-site postings, regular e-mail correspondence/phone calls, status briefings, and reports at subsequent meetings. The RAC has begun implementing video teleconferences as a way to meet at reduced cost.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

	Checked if Applies
Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

The BLM incorporates RAC input into land use planning processes and decision-making processes and discussion, and when setting priorities and allocating resources.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

N/A

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

There is media notification of RAC meetings and coverage in the online BLM-California publication news.bytes and social media.